under the scheme, practitioners registered by the Central Board of Indigenous Medicine will be given the first preference. Graduates and diplomates of recognized institutions, if selected under this scheme, are exempted from the training."

Supply of chemical manures.

9-20 a.m. * 307 *Q.*—SRI V. SRI KRISHNA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Director of Agriculture had recently issued any order to alter the usual procedure of supply of chemical manures through the tender firms and the co-operative stores;

(*b*) whether there had been rise in the prices due to this alteration and the consequent additional transport charges; and

(*c*) whether the Government have received any representations from the parties concerned expressing the inconveniences caused by this alteration?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (*a*) No. Supplies of chemical fertilisers to tender firms and Co-operative Societies were hitherto made both from Madras and from the Agricultural Department depots in the districts. Consequently, two prices were prevailing, one in respect of stocks supplied direct from Madras and the other in regard to supplies made from the Departmental depots, the latter being slightly more costly owing to the addition of transport charges and the Departmental overheads. With a view to avoid scope for malpractices in the sale of chemical fertilizers to the public which the existence of two prices may afford and to achieve a better regulation of supplies to the distributing agencies, supply of stocks direct from Madras, has been stopped and supplies are now made only from the Departmental depots.

" (*b*) No. There has been no increase in price as such. But the slightly lesser price applicable to stocks received direct from Madras, as compared to the price of stocks supplied from the Departmental depots is no longer in force.

" (*c*) Yes. Representations have been received from the ryots of Ramachandrapuram taluk (East Godavari district), Narasannapet taluk (Srikakulam district), Kakinada taluk (East Godavari district) and Chandole (Guntur district). A representation has also been received from a tender firm."

SRI V. SRI KRISHNA :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that chemical manures in excess of the usual requirements were taken delivery of from the Union Government and that last year some 90,000 tons of chemical manures were unsold? In view of the fact that prices in the Sindhri factory have fallen, what is the amount of loss incurred by this Government this year? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" The question does not arise, Sir."